



# Debate: Επιλογή διαλύματος αναπλήρωσης όγκου Ισορροπημένα διαλύματα

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# Background

- IV fluids are the most commonly prescribed drugs in hospitals.
- Fluid therapy is a key component of the prevention and management of AKI and AKD.
- Historically, 0.9% sodium chloride (saline) has been the most commonly administered intravenous fluid.

**Balanced****Non-Balanced**

<b>mEq/L</b>	<b>Normosol-R and Plasma-Lyte A</b>	<b>Lactated Ringers</b>	<b>NaCl 0.9%</b>	<b>Human Plasma</b>
<b>Na</b>	140	130	154	136 - 145
<b>Cl</b>	98	109	154	96 - 106
<b>K</b>	5	4	0	3.5 - 5.0
<b>Mg</b>	3	0	0	1.5 - 2.5
<b>Ca</b>	0	3	0	4.5 - 5.5 (ionized)
<b>Lactate*</b>	0	28	0	
<b>Acetate*</b>	27	0	0	
<b>Gluconate*</b>	23	0	0	
<b>Osmolarity</b>	294	273	308	275 - 295
<b>pH</b>	~7.4	6.0-7.5	4.5-7.0	7.35-7.45

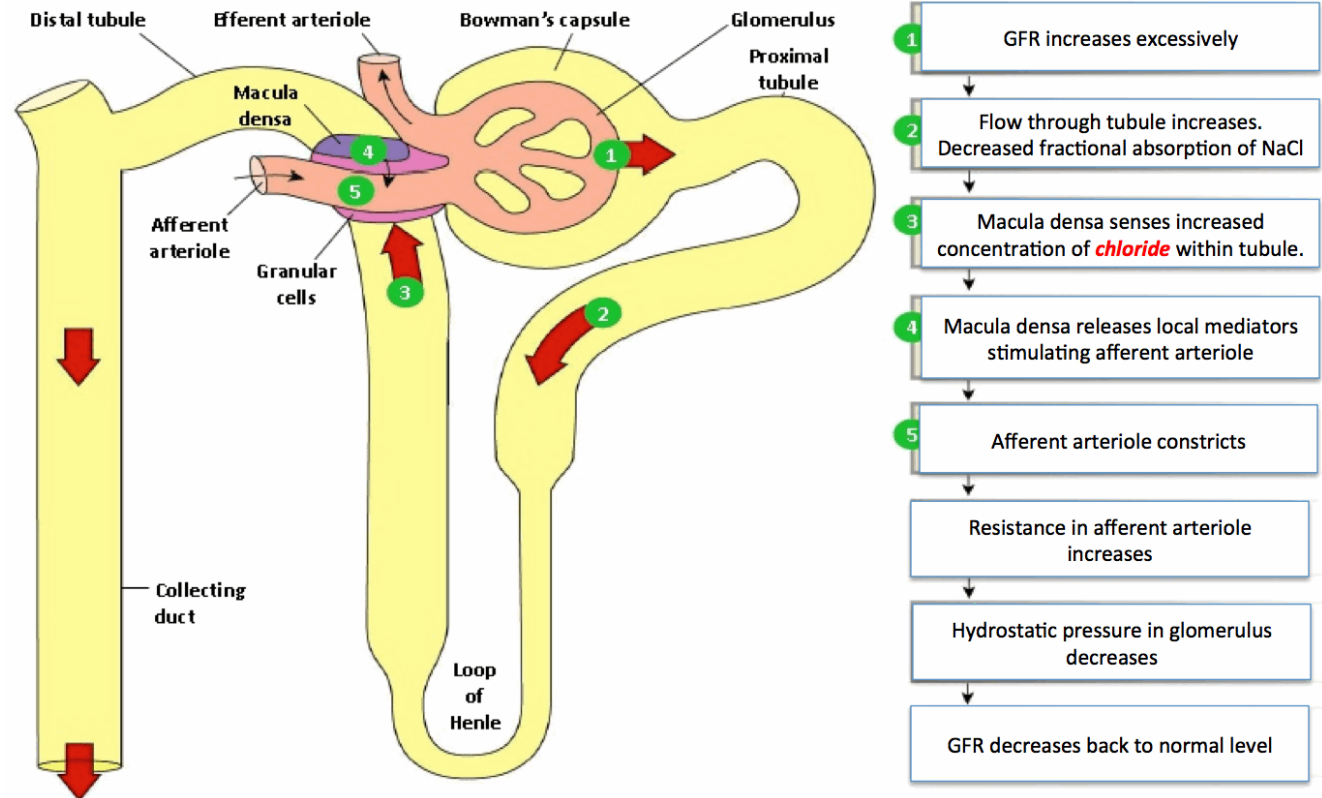
# Debate

Data suggest that intravenous saline may be associated with hyperchloremic metabolic acidosis, acute kidney injury, and death

# Chloride-rich solutions may cause renal vasoconstriction and ischemia resulting in AKI

- $\uparrow \text{Cl} \rightarrow$  vasoconstriction afferent arterioles
- Auto-regulation renal blood flow and GFR.
- The renal blood flow determines the GFR or the flow of plasma filtered into the kidney.

Tubuloglomerular feedback is mediated by chloride concentration



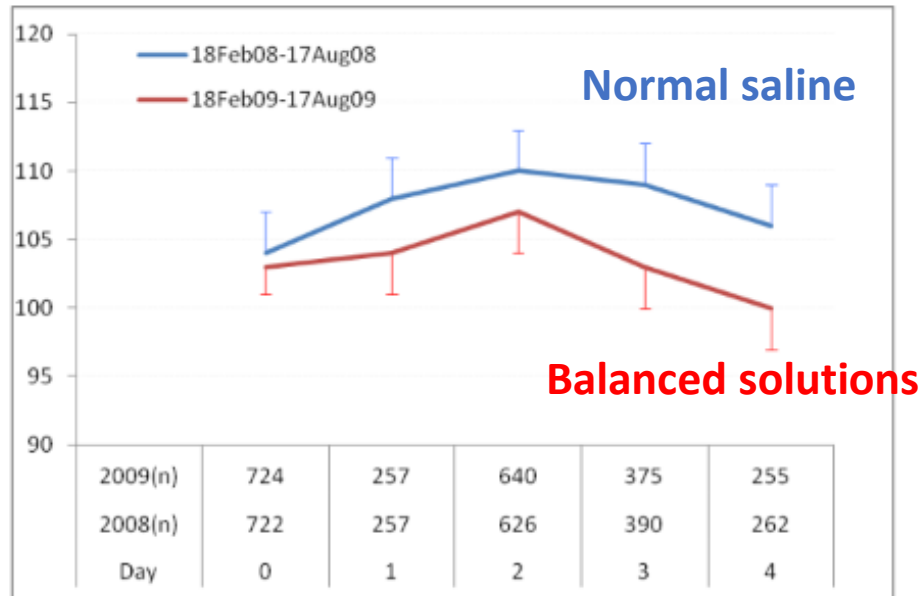
# Chloride-rich solutions may cause Hyperchloremic Metabolic Acidosis

**Excess chloride → ↓ bicarbonate**

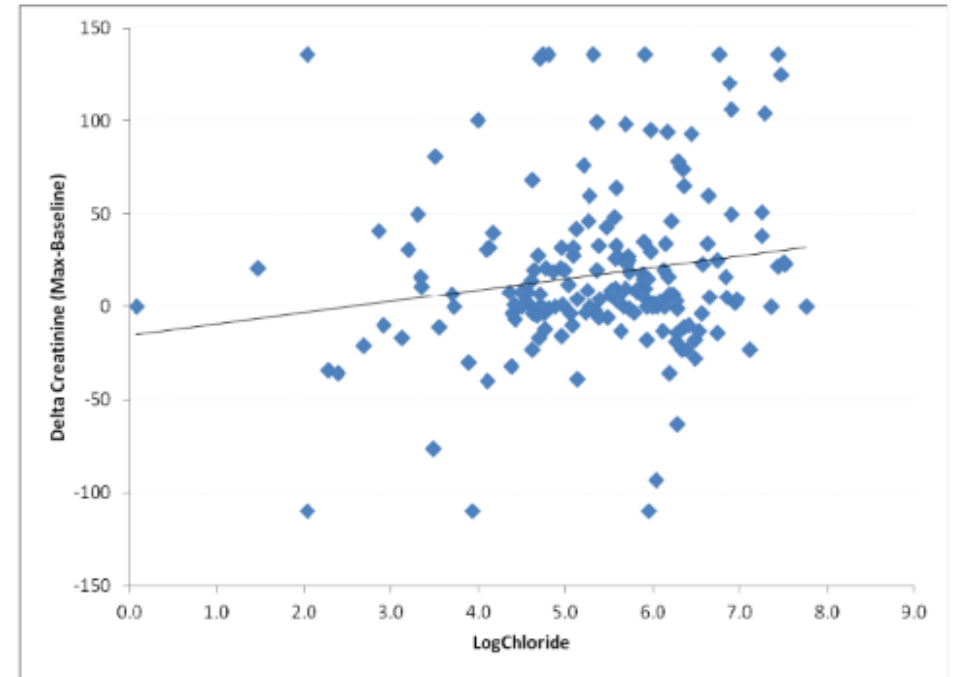
- When large amounts of chloride are infused:
- $\uparrow \text{Cl}^- \rightarrow \downarrow \text{bicarbonate}$  maintain electroneutrality → **metabolic acidosis**
- This is specifically a **normal anion gap (hyperchloremic) metabolic acidosis**.

**Association Between a Chloride-Liberal vs Chloride-Restrictive Intravenous Fluid Administration Strategy and Kidney Injury in Critically Ill Adults**

Nor'azim Mohd Yunos, MD; Rinaldo Bellomo, MD, FCICM; Colin Hegarty, BSc; et al



29-34% CKD



Balanced solutions vs normal saline →  
 ↓ creatinine level ( $P = .03$ ; adjusted  $P = .007$ )

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**Table 3.** Incidence of Acute Kidney Injury Stratified by Risk, Injury, Failure, Loss, and End-Stage (RIFLE) Serum Creatinine Criteria

RIFLE class	No. (%) [95% CI] of Patients <sup>a</sup>		P Value
	Control Period (n = 760)	Intervention Period (n = 773)	
	Normal saline	Balanced	
Risk	71 (9.0) [7.2-11.0]	57 (7.4) [5.5-9.0]	.16
Injury	48 (6.3) [4.5-8.1]	23 (3.0) [1.8-4.2]	.002
Failure	57 (7.5) [5.6-9.0]	42 (5.4) [3.8-7.1]	.10
Injury and failure	105 (14) [11-16]	65 (8.4) [6.4-10.0]	<.001

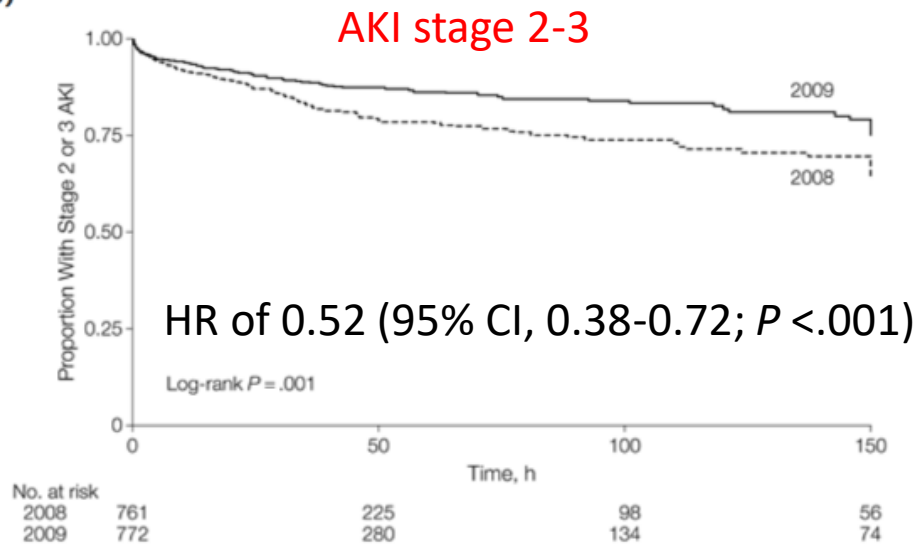
The control period was from February 18 through August 17, 2008, and the intervention period was from February 18 through August 17, 2009.

RRT use for 78 patients (10%; 95% CI, 8.1%-12%) vs 49 patients (6.3%; 95% CI, 4.6%-8.1%)  
(P = .005)

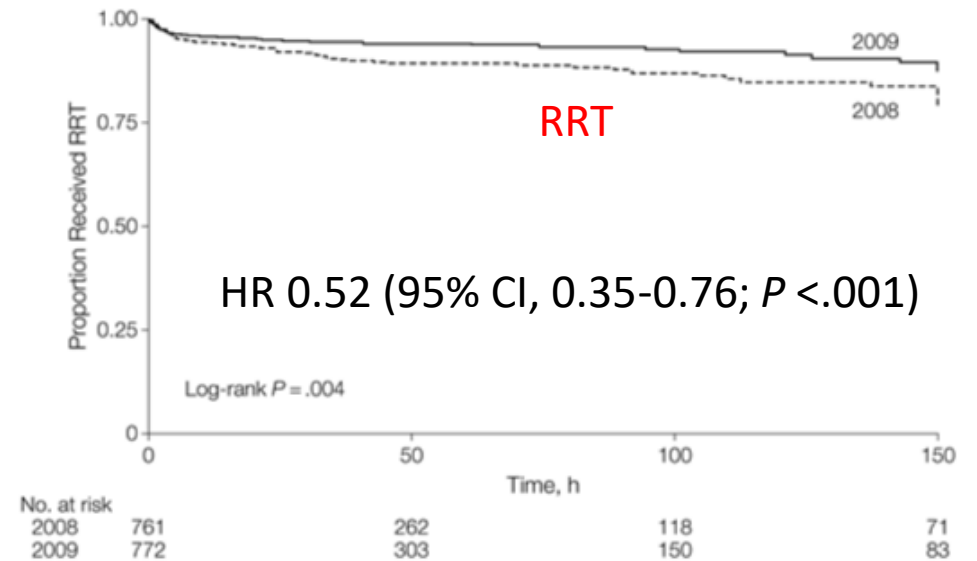
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**Figure 1. Development of Stage 2 or 3 Acute Kidney Injury (AKI) While in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU)**



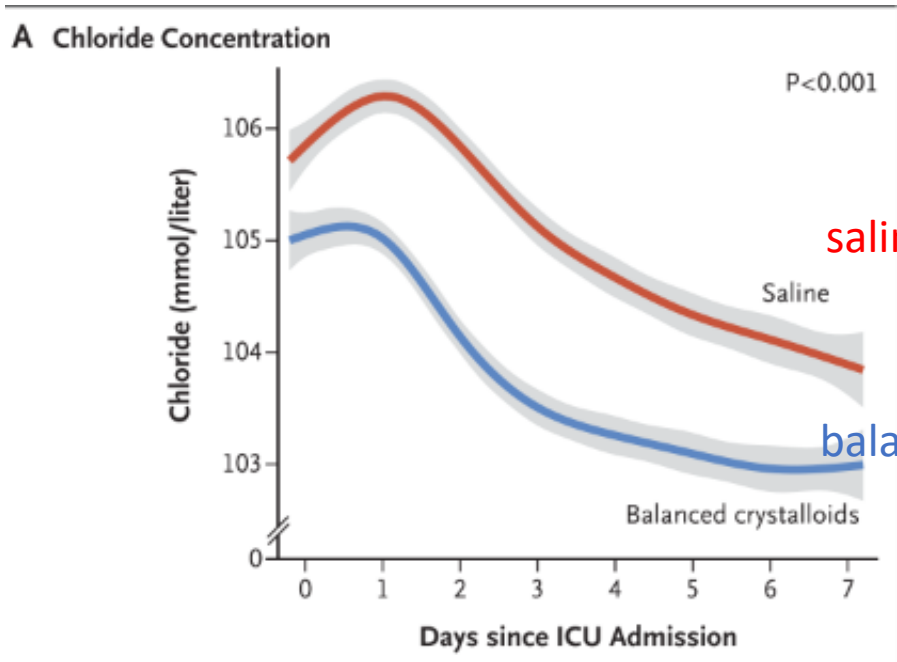
**Figure 2. Renal Replacement Therapy (RRT) in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU)**



no differences in long-term dialysis requirements and in non-renal medium-term outcomes or mortality, length of ICU stay

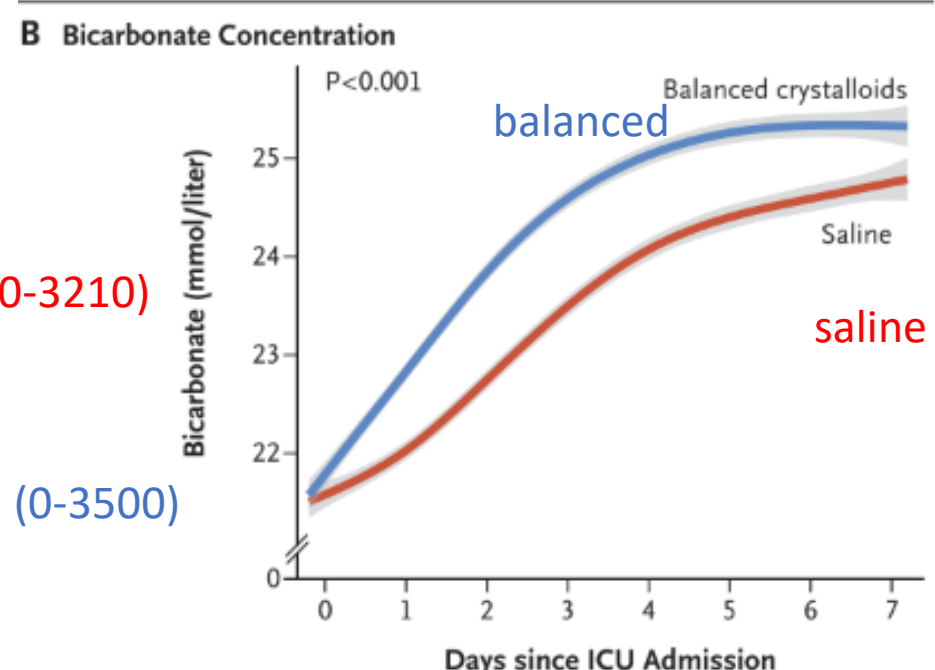
ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Balanced Crystalloids versus Saline  
in Critically Ill Adults



saline  
1000 ml (0-3210)

balanced  
1020 ml (0-3500)



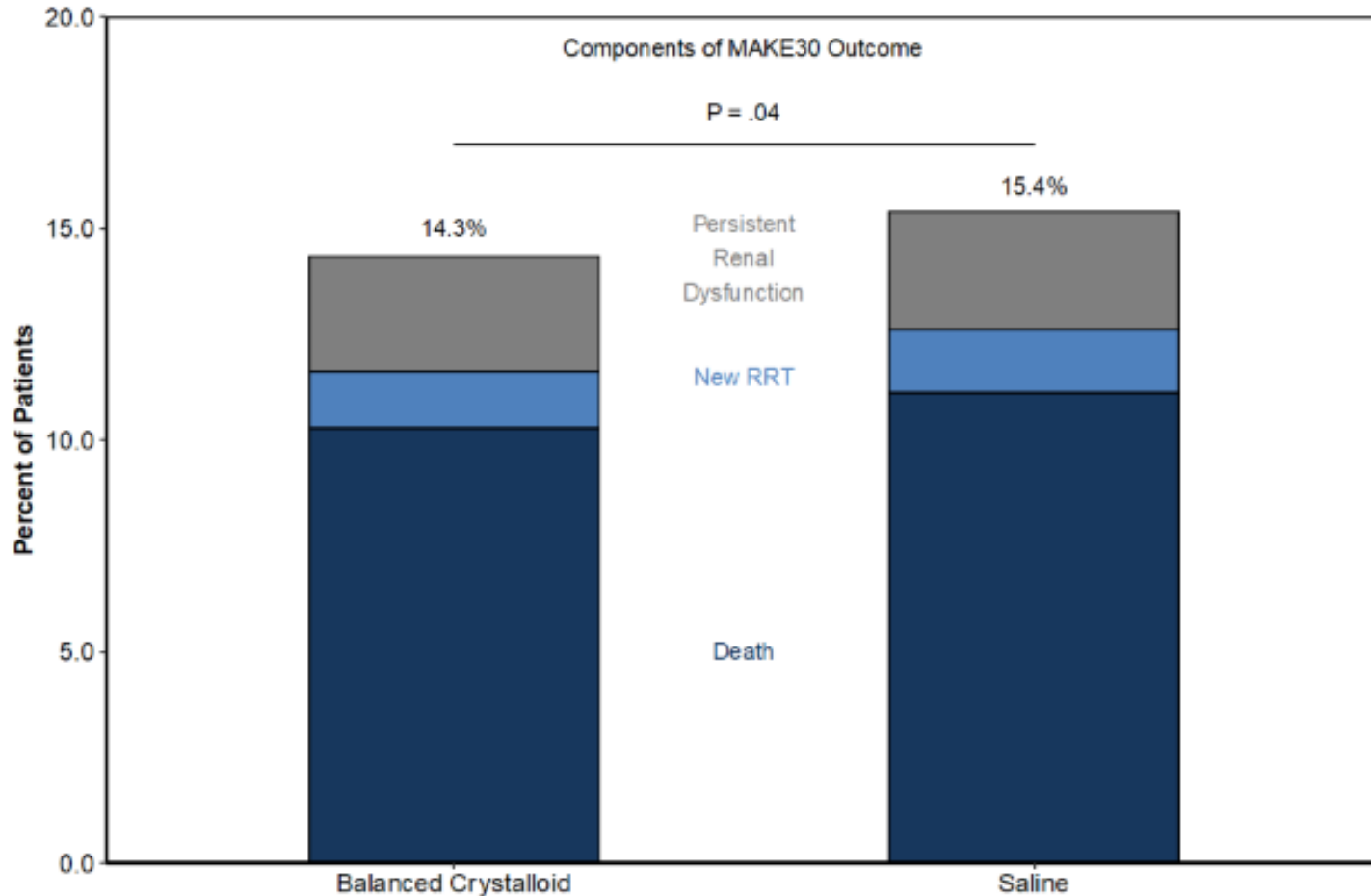
balanced-crystalloids vs saline →  
↓ bicarbonate < 20 mmol per liter  
(35.2% vs. 42.1%,  $P < 0.001$ )

balanced-crystalloids vs saline →  
↓ plasma chloride > 110 mmol per liter  
(24.5% vs. 35.6%,  $P < 0.001$ )

CKD 17%

Table 1. Participant Characteristics at Baseline.*		
Characteristic	Balanced Crystalloids (N = 7942)	Saline (N = 7860)
Age — yr		
Median	58	58
Interquartile range	44–69	44–69
Male sex — no. (%)	4540 (57.2)	4557 (58.0)
White race — no. (%)†	6384 (80.4)	6322 (80.4)
Weight — kg‡		
Median	80	79
Interquartile range	69–96	68–95
Coexisting renal conditions — no. (%)		
Chronic kidney disease of stage 3 or higher§	1388 (17.5)	1360 (17.3)
Previous receipt of renal-replacement therapy — no. (%)	384 (4.8)	402 (5.1)
Source of admission to ICU — no. (%)		
Emergency department	3975 (50.1)	3997 (50.9)
Operating room	1732 (21.8)	1649 (21.0)
Transfer from another hospital	1038 (13.1)	1018 (13.0)
Hospital ward	788 (9.9)	780 (9.9)
Outpatient	363 (4.6)	359 (4.6)
Another ICU within hospital	46 (0.6)	57 (0.7)
Diagnosis on ICU admission — no. (%)		
Sepsis or septic shock	1167 (14.7)	1169 (14.9)
Traumatic brain injury	698 (8.8)	665 (8.5)
Mechanical ventilation — no. (%)	2723 (34.3)	2731 (34.7)
Vasopressors — no. (%)	2094 (26.4)	2058 (26.2)
Mean predicted risk of in-hospital death — % (95% CI)¶	9.4 (9.0–9.9)	9.6 (9.2–10.0)
Baseline creatinine level — mg/dl		
Median	0.89	0.89
Interquartile range	0.74–1.10	0.74–1.10
Acute kidney injury of stage 2 or higher — no. (%)**	681 (8.6)	643 (8.2)

## ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Balanced Crystalloids versus Saline  
in Critically Ill Adults

## Primary Outcome:

major adverse kidney event (first 30 days)

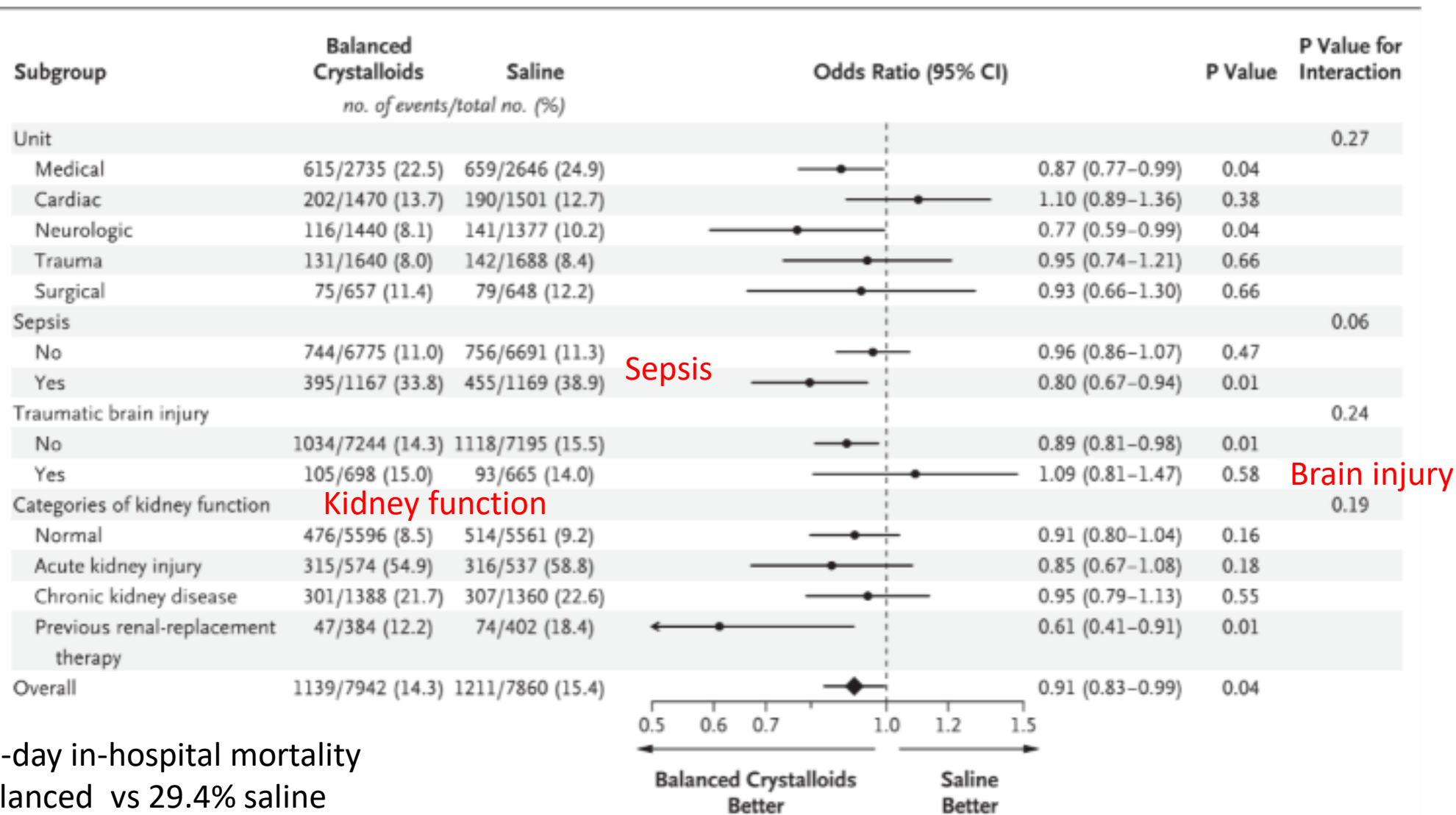
balanced- crystalloids group vs saline →

**14.3% vs 15.4%**

(marginal OR, 0.91; 95% [CI], 0.84 to 0.99;

1 patient among every 94 patients admitted to an ICU

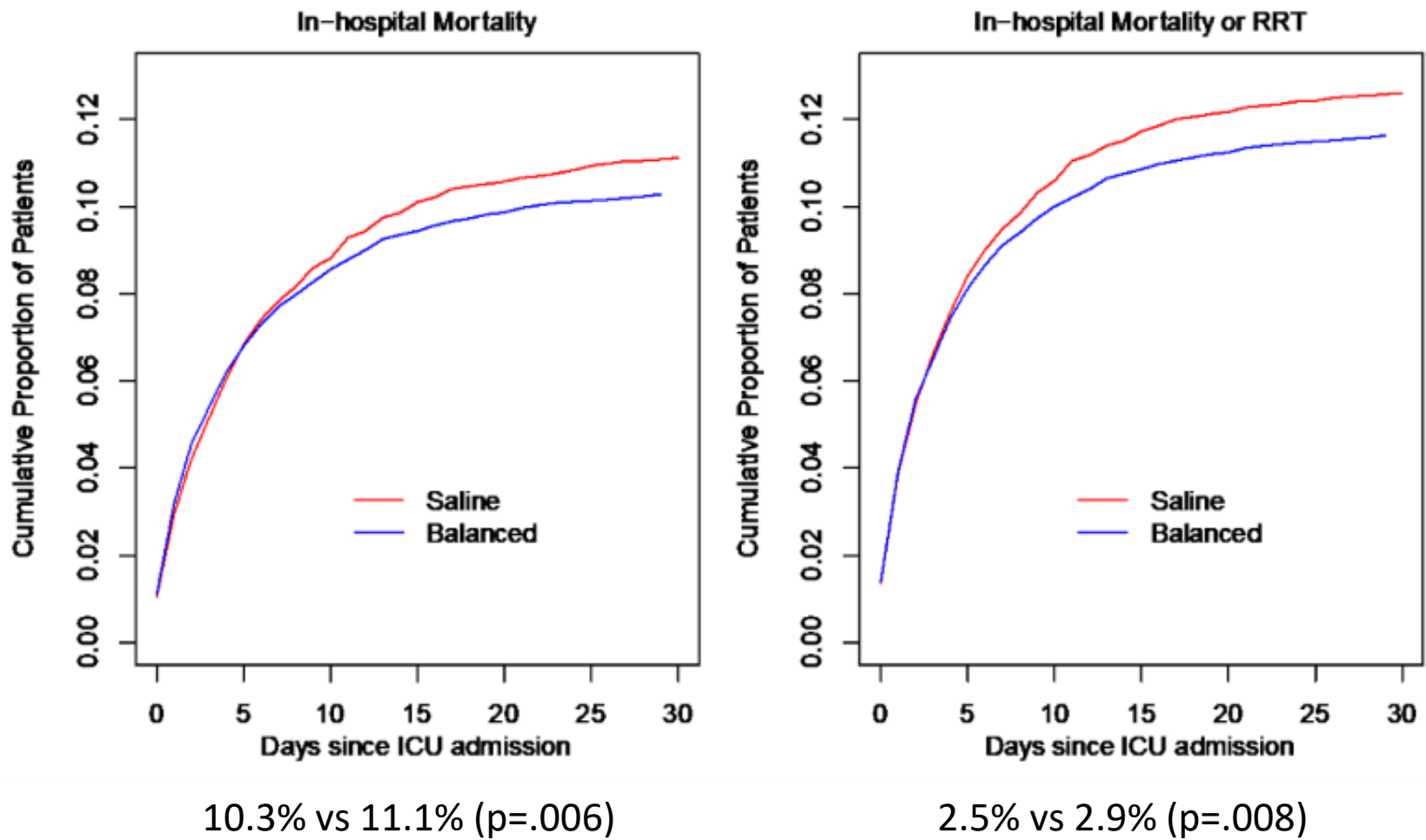
# Subgroup Analysis



Sepsis, 30-day in-hospital mortality  
 25.2% balanced vs 29.4% saline  
 (aOR 0.80; 95% CI, 0.67 to 0.97; P = 0.02).

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

### Balanced Crystalloids versus Saline in Critically Ill Adults

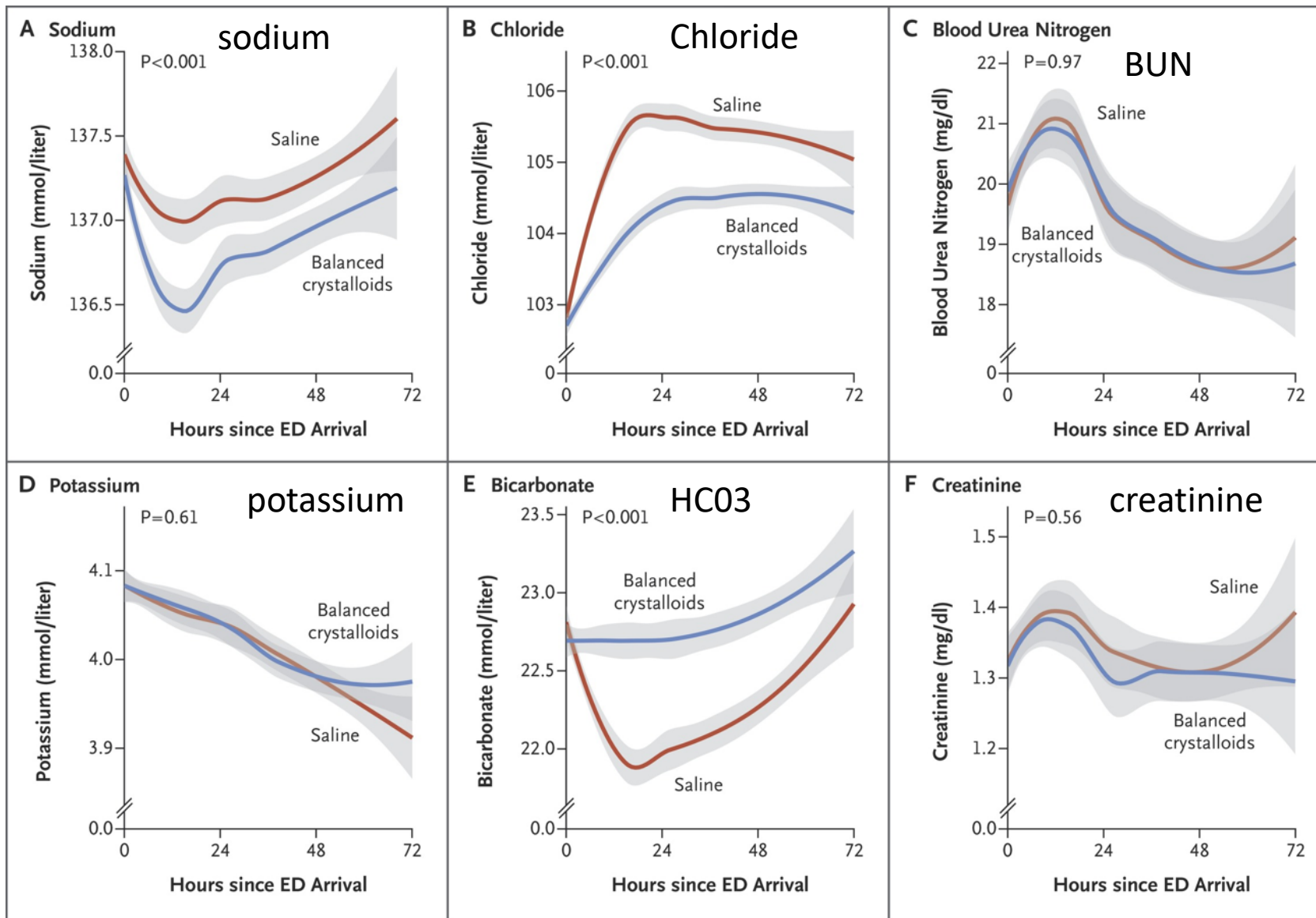


ORIGINAL ARTICLE

## Balanced Crystalloids versus Saline in Noncritically Ill Adults

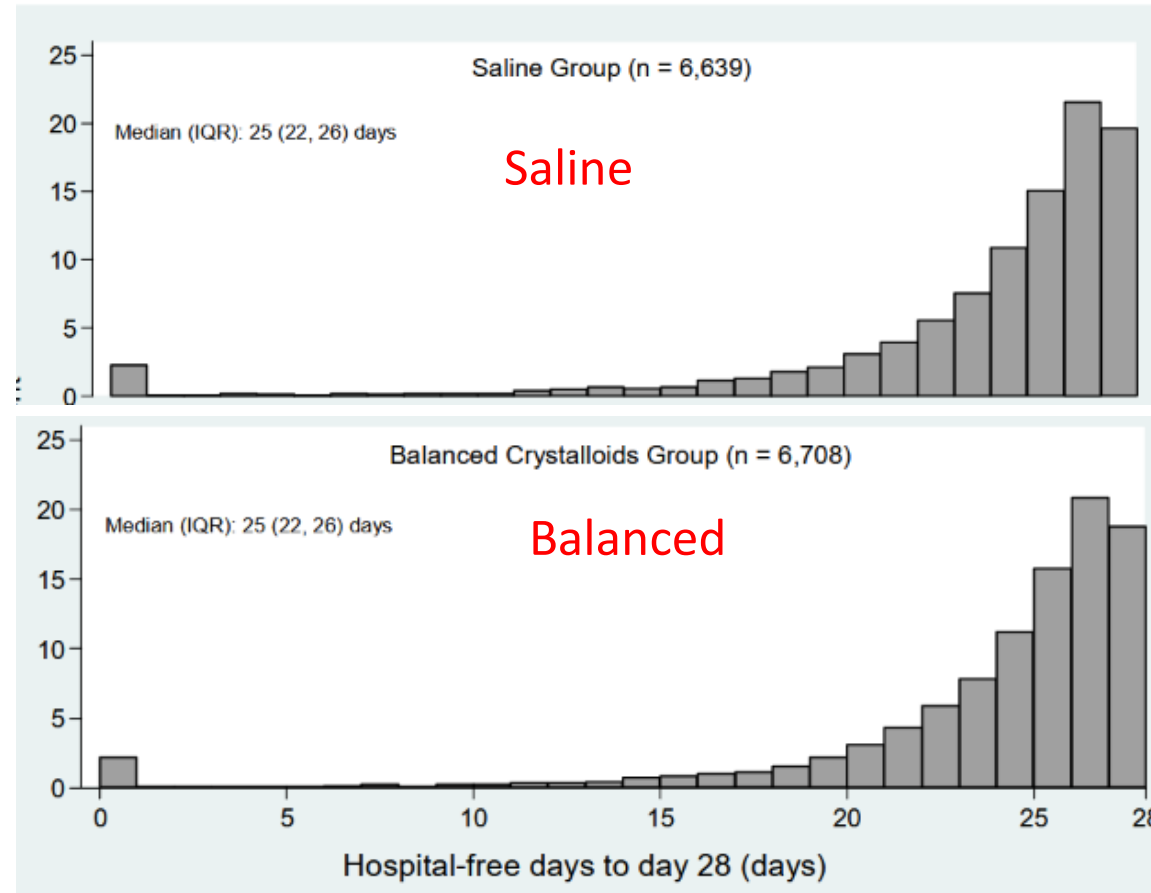
Wesley H. Self, M.D., M.P.H., Matthew W. Semler, M.D.,  
Jonathan P. Wanderer, M.D., Li Wang, M.S., Daniel W. Byrne, M.S.,  
Sean P. Collins, M.D., Corey M. Slovis, M.D., Christopher J. Lindsell, Ph.D.,  
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and Todd W. Rice, M.D., for the SALT-ED Investigators\*

# First 72 Hours after Arrival in the Emergency



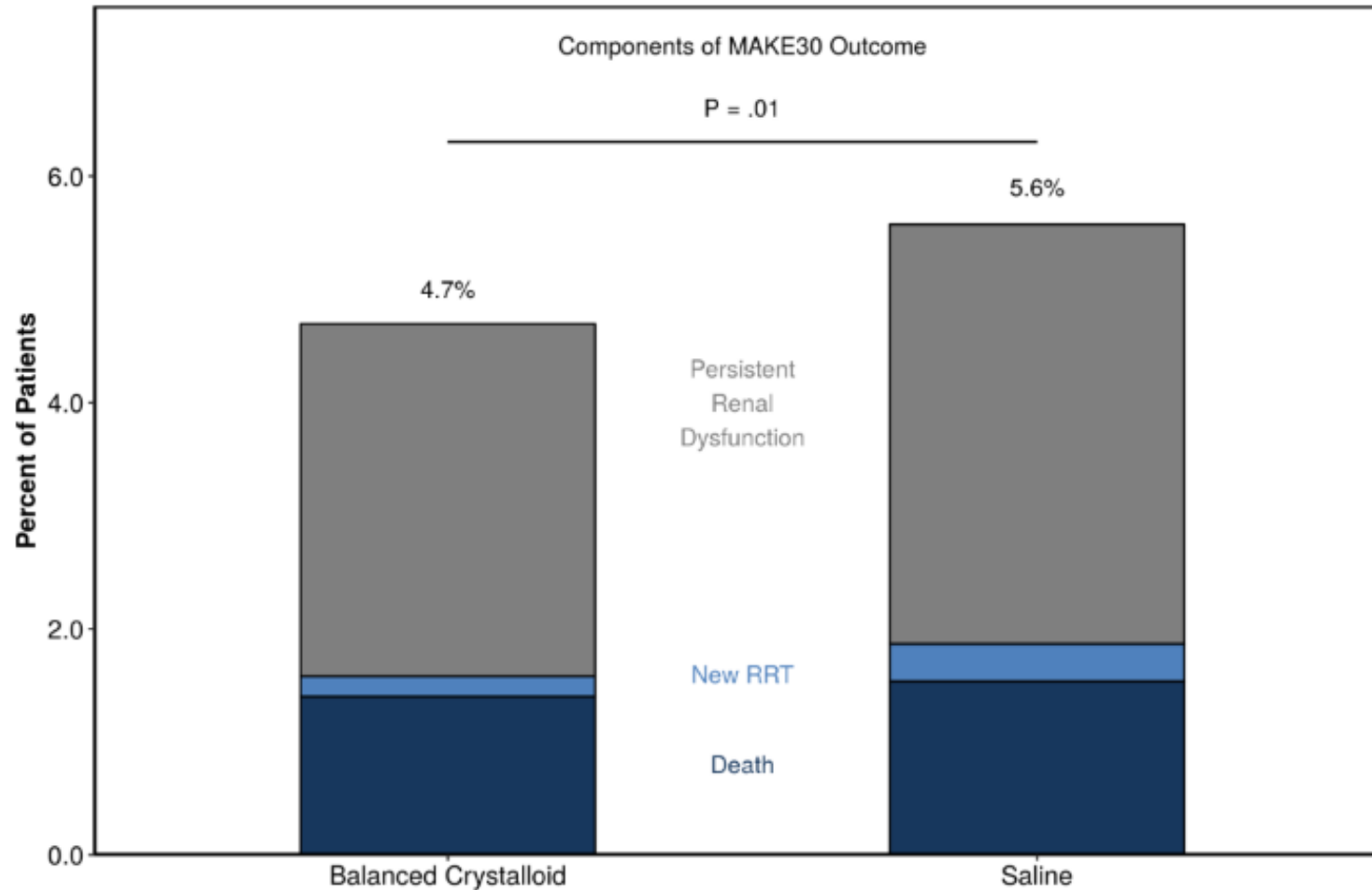
# Number of hospital-free days between

Median 25 days- **Primary outcome no difference**



hospital-free days to day 28, a composite of in-hospital death and hospital length of stay defined as the number of

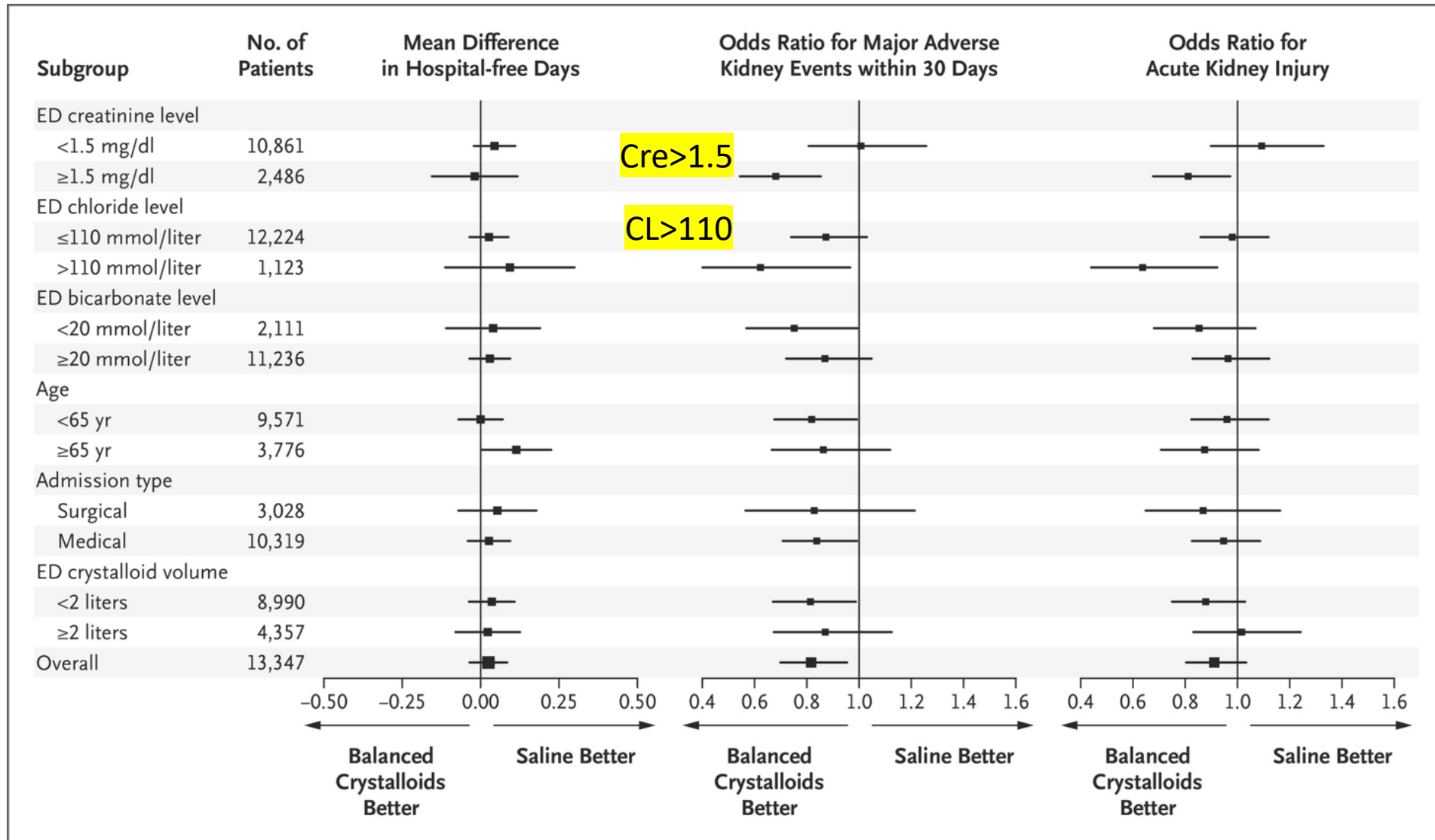
# Incidence of Major Adverse Kidney Events within 30 days (MAKE30)



## Secondary outcome

Balanced vs saline →  
↓ incidence of major adverse kidney events within 30 days than those in the saline group (4.7% vs. 5.6%; aOR, 0.82; 95% CI, 0.70 to 0.95; P = 0.01).

# Higher benefit



# Resolution of AKI

## Balanced Crystalloids versus Saline in Noncritically Ill Adults

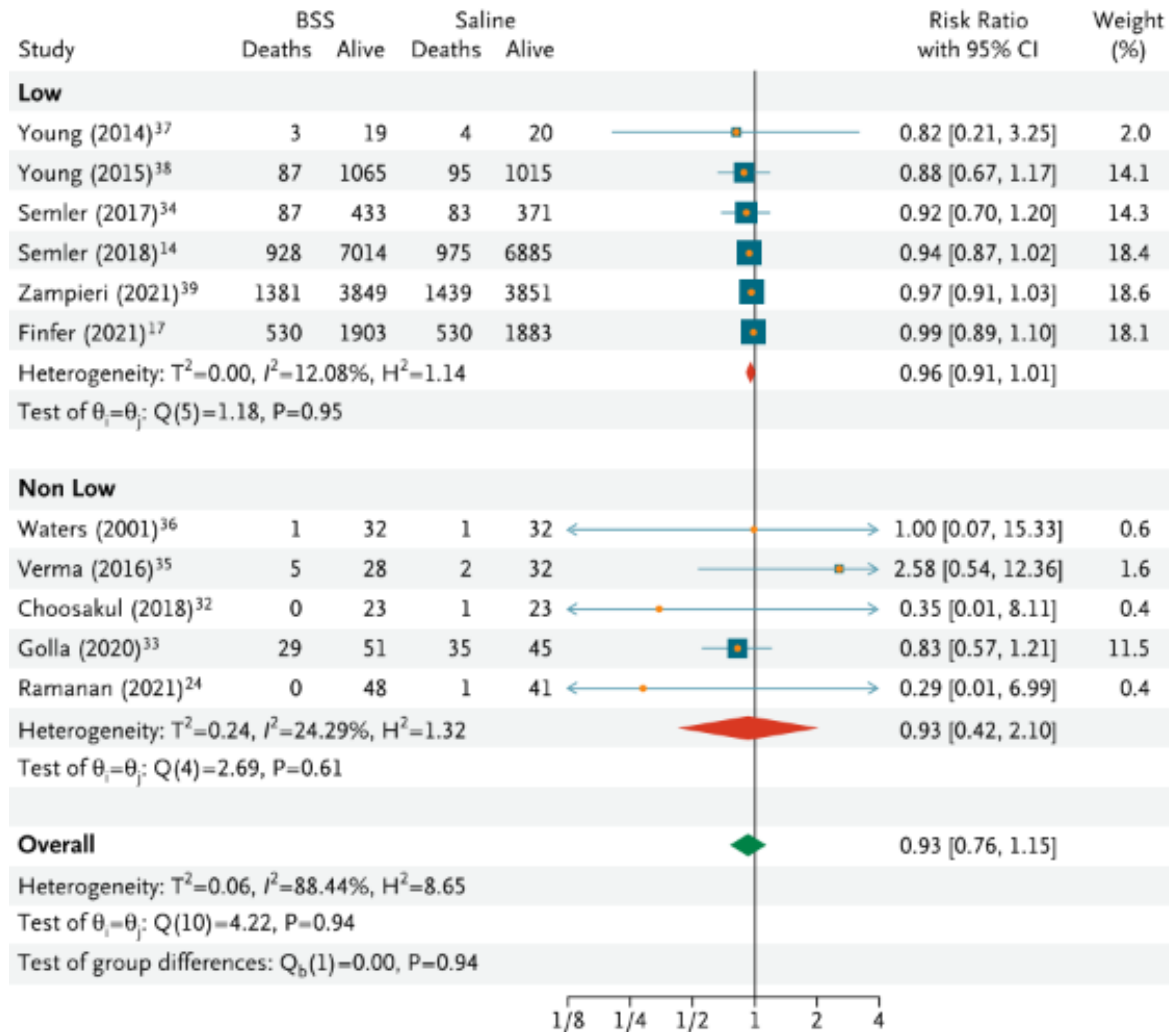
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KDIGO criteria for stage 2 or higher acute kidney injury (1274 patients)

Resolution AKI

MAK Balanced crystalloids (28.0%) vs saline group (37.6%) ( $P < 0.001$ )

# Metanalysis- Lower 90-day mortality with buffered



## Primary Outcome

- ↓ mortality buffered crystalloids vs 0.9% saline RR of 0.96 (95% CI: 0.92–1.00)
- RR ↓1-9% risk of death
- Sepsis RR ↓ 1-14% risk of death

## Secondary Outcome

- AKI RR 0.96 (95% CI, 0.89 to 1.02)
- RRT RR 0.95 (95% CI, 0.81 to 1.11)

# KDIGO

KDIGO 2026 CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINE FOR ACUTE KIDNEY  
INJURY (AKI) AND ACUTE KIDNEY DISEASE (AKD)

PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT  
MARCH 2026



## **3.1 Fluid management**

**Recommendation 3.1.1: We recommend using crystalloids rather than colloids (albumin, gelatin, or starches) as initial management for intravascular volume expansion in children and adults at risk of or with AKI or AKD (1B).**

**Recommendation 3.1.2: We recommend using buffered crystalloids instead of 0.9% saline for volume expansion in the absence of traumatic brain injury in children and adults at risk of or with AKI or AKD (1B).**

Exception traumatic brain injury, or prevention tumor lysis, contrast-associated AKI (in whom 0.9% saline may be preferred)

The choice of buffered crystalloid may be influenced by availability and costs.



Outcome	# Studies (Patients) [Design]	Summary of Findings		
		Certainty of Evidence	Description of Findings	Importance of Outcome
Death	21 (36387) 1,4-6 [RCT]	Moderate	RR 0.96 (0.92, 1.00) ↓ 4% risk 8 fewer per 1000 (from 15 fewer to 0)	Critical
AKI	12 (29241) 1,4,7-9 [RCT]	Moderate	RR 0.93 (0.87, 0.99) ↓ 7% risk 8 fewer per 1000 (from 14 fewer to 1 fewer)	Critical
AKI, Stage 3	0		No evidence	Critical
RRT	8 (32536) 1,10 [RCT]	Low	RR 0.92 (0.84, 1.01) ↓ 8% risk 4 fewer per 1000	Critical

# Less Resource Utilization

- Retrospective propensity matched analysis
- Plasmalyte-148 vs 0.9% saline
  - Lower rates of mortality and AKI ( $\downarrow$  5 times)
  - Fewer fluid (L)
  - Fewer arterial blood gas
  - Fewer lactate measurements

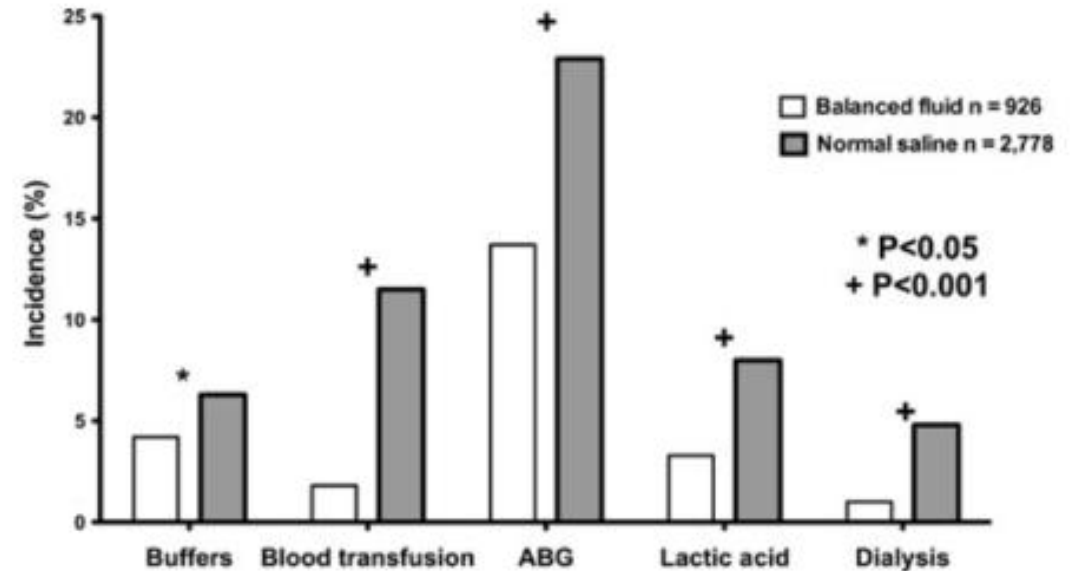


FIGURE 3. Interventions related to metabolic acidosis diagnosis and management.

# Conclusions

- Balanced crystalloids better preserve renal physiology
- Evidence supports lower kidney complications
- Normal saline should no longer be default therapy
- Choose fluids as carefully as any medication
- The appropriate composition of a fluid may depend on the indication for its use and the condition of the individual patient